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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,313	05/17/2005	Nobumasa Sakurai	112857-545	5994
29175	7590	03/29/2006	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC			NGUYEN, THONG Q	
P. O. BOX 1135			ART UNIT	
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			PAPER NUMBER	
			2872	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/535,313

Applicant(s)

SAKURAI ET AL.

Examiner

Thong Q. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2005 and 01 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/18/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The present Office action is made in response to the pre-amendments filed on Nov. 1, 2005 and May 17, 2005.

It is noted that in the pre-amendment of 11/1/05, applicant has requested to change the title of the application. In the pre-amendment of 5/17/05, applicant has made changes to the specification and the claims. Regarding to the changes in the specification, applicant has filed a substitute specification and its marked-up copy. Regarding to the claims, applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and added claims 8-14.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. The drawings contained nine sheets of figures 1-14 were received on 5/17/2005. These drawings are approved by the Examiner.

Specification

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The summary of the Invention is too long and also contains paragraph(s) comparing the present

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invention to the prior art. Thus, the present Summary as filed does not comply with the requirement of a summary of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. See also MPEP 608.01(d). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 8-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida (Japanese reference No. 6-51386).

Yoshida discloses a lens hood for a camera. The lens hood as described in sections [009]-[0019] and shown in figs. 1-7 comprises the following features: a) A base section (3) attached to the front section of a camera which comprises a taking lens (4) wherein the base section (3) comprises a rectangular opening (31); b) A tubular section (1) detachably attached to the base section (3) wherein the tubular section comprises a light intercepting frame or a dowsel (11b) having an opening (11a) for permitting light passing therethrough and a peripheral section surrounding the opening for shielding harmful light. The rear side of the tubular section comprises a connecting mechanism having pawls (11e, 12A-B...) for detachably attached the tubular section to the base section; and c) A conversion lens system (2) having attaching means formed on its rear end thereof for detachably attached to the tubular section. It is noted that the screw-

thread (22) forms on the outer surface of the lens barrel (21) is engaged with the screw-thread (11c) formed on the inner surface of the tubular section (1), thus the conversion is considered as the one being contained inside the tubular section and thus the lens hood and located in the front side of the camera.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 11 and 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

A) The image pickup apparatus as recited in present claim 11 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and 2000-180918 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 2,291,821 and 4,909,617 by the limitations related to the cap detachably attached to the opening of the dowser of the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that the use of a lens cap detachably attached to a lens hood is disclosed in the art as can be seen in the Japanese reference No. 2000-180918 and the U.S. Patent No. 4,909,617; however, the art does not disclose an image pickup system having a lens hood comprises a base portion for mounting to an optical system; a tubular portion detachably coupled to the base portion wherein the tubular portion comprises a dowser having an opening; a lens contained inside the lens hood and a cap detachably attached to the opening of the dowser as claimed.

B) The image pickup apparatus as recited in the present claim 13 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 5,313,329 and 3,614,196 by the limitations related to the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that while the use of a lens hood having a dowser and supporting a lens system is disclosed in the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the mentioned U.S. Patents; however, the cited art does not disclose that the dowser of the tubular portion is in a biased state in an optical axis and the tubular portion can be detachably coupled to the base portion irrespectively of whether the dowser is positioned close to the optical system or in a position apart from the optical system, and the conversion lens is located inside the lens hood when the dowser is in the position apart from the optical system as claimed.

C) The image pickup apparatus as recited in the present claim 14 is patentable with respect to the cited art, in particular, the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the U.S. Patent Nos. 5,313,329 and 3,614,196 by the limitations related to the tubular portion of the lens hood. It is noted that while the use of a lens hood having a dowser and supporting a lens system is disclosed in the Japanese reference No. 6-51386 and the mentioned U.S. Patents; however, the cited art does not disclose that the dowser of the tubular portion is in a biased state in an optical axis and the tubular portion can be detachably coupled to the base portion irrespectively of whether the dowser is positioned close to the optical system or in a position apart from the optical system, and the conversion lens is not

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mounted inside the lens hood when the dowser is in the position close to the optical system as claimed.

Conclusion

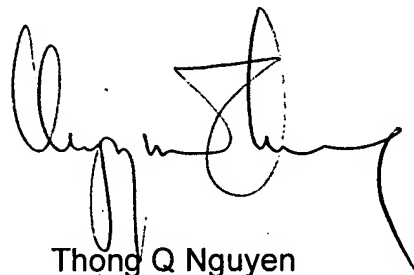
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional references are cited as of interest in that each discloses a lens hood detachably attached to the front section of an optical device or discloses the use of a lens cap for protective the lens of an optical device.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2316. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thong Q. Nguyen', is positioned above the printed name.

Thong Q. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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